GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:40
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008
CHEAPER SOLAR LAMPS LANTERN
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for making available the cheaper solar lamp/lantern in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide any subsidy on the said lamps; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY(SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), & (e): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been implementing a scheme on distribution of solar lanterns in the un-electrified villages and hamlets of the special category States and island Union Territories. At present, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) is being used as the light source in the solar lanterns. The average cost of a solar lantern is around Rs.3,500/- and the Ministry is providing a subsidy of Rs. 2,400/- per solar lantern.In addition,a girl child from a BPL family,studying in class IX−XII,in the above mentioned areas are eligible to get one solar lantern free of cost during her entire period of school study.

The Ministry is also supporting development of white Light Emitting Diode (LED) based solar lanterns,for replacing CFL,which are expected to further reduce the cost of the solar lanterns. The draft performance specifications of white LED based solar lanterns have been prepared for product development and performance evaluation.